Hoffman Estates Police Department, Hoffman Estates, IL



Site Visit Summary

Inspection Station Location Name: Hoffman Estate	es Police Department
Street Address: 1200 Gannon Dr.	
City, State: Hoffman Estates, IL 60195	Phone: 847-781-2804
Email: Steven.Casstevens@HoffmanEstates.org V	Veb Site: www.hoffmanestates.org/police/traffic
Date Visited: June 24, 25, 2002 Observation con	ducted by: Janet Dewey-Kollen and Julie K. Prom
Type of Agency/Organization: Police Department Type of service: ☐ Fixed Site ☐ Mobile ☒ Both Inspections Completed per Month: 125+ = 35 + at Annual Budget (including in-kind personnel costs ☐ \$5001 − 15,000 ☐ \$15,001 − 25,000 ☐ \$25,001 Geographical Setting: ☐ Urban ☒ Suburban ☐	fixed site and 90+ at mobile sites s): - 50,000 □\$50,001 - 75,000 ⊠Over \$75,000

Program Setting:

The Village of Hoffman Estates, IL, is a northwestern suburb of Chicago with a population of 49,500 and an average household income of \$52,600. The Hoffman Estates Police Department has 142 employees, 97 are sworn police officers. Hoffman Estates is one of 38 communities in the State of Illinois (a state with a secondary enforcement safety belt law) that has passed a city ordinance making safety belt use a primary enforcement law.

Populations Served:

Residents of Hoffman Estates and from surrounding communities are served with special emphasis on low income and Hispanic populations. HEPD operates a Hispanic Resource Center out of an office in a predominantly Hispanic apartment complex. Several of the officers and other staff speak Spanish, and brochures are available in Spanish. The HRC promotes child passenger safety in general and provides inspection services by appointment in addition to other community services and resources.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Hoffman Estates Police Department (HEPD) began its child safety seat inspection service in 1993 by holding a check-up event in the HEPD parking lot. Since then it has grown to a fixed site at the HEPD and the HEPD Hispanic Resource Center, as well as a mobile site at the local Babies 'R' Us. Services are provided at no cost to the general public. Daily inspections are conducted in the police station parking lot with access to a garage during inclement weather. The mobile inspections are held once a month from March through October. Inspections are also conducted at the HEPD's Hispanic Resource Center during the week.

Service Delivery Schedule:

Fixed site, set days/hours, drop-in basis: The general public can access HEPD's inspection services at the police station 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins are usually accommodated.

Fixed site, set days/hours, by appointment: The general public can call to make an appointment for inspection services at the police station 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calls are funneled through the HEPD Community Relations Department. If callers do not connect with a live person, they have the option of leaving a voice message. The inspectors make their own appointments.

Fixed site, by appointment only: Inspection services at the HEPD's Hispanic Resource Center (HRC) are done by appointment only. Appointments are available Monday through Saturday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Appointments are made by calling the HEPD headquarters or the HRC office.

Mobile site, **set days/hours**, **drop-in basis**: HEPD and other partners provide inspection services in the Babies 'R' Us parking lot once a month from March through October. These are open to the general public.

The HEPD does not charge the public for child safety seat inspections.

Tools and equipment used for inspections: HEPD's station is equipped with basic materials for inspections including up-to-date recall lists, CSS Manufacturer's Instructions, locking clips, belt-shortening clips, replacement seats, foam noodles, slip guard material, hemostats, vinyl gloves, and educational hand-outs.

Data Collection: HEPD uses a standardized "inspection checklist" distributed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Completed inspection forms are hand-tallied and filed. A database is used to track number of inspections completed and replacement seats distributed. A HEPD case number is issued for each inspection so that departmental activity and seats inspected can be tracked easily.

Inspection process: At the police station and the Hispanic Resource Center, a typical inspection begins with the CPS Technician radioing to the dispatcher for a case number. All these inspections are given a case number to help track number of inspections and officer's activity.

At all three sites (fixed and mobile), the parent/caregiver is asked to complete a form containing information about the child (children) whose seat(s) is to be inspected. A liability waiver is also included in the form. Inspectors strongly emphasize that children must be present to determine whether the child (children) is in an age and size appropriate safety seat, and whether the child is buckled into the seat correctly. However, inspections are still conducted when a child is not present.

The inspector observes how the seat is installed upon arrival and makes recommendations as needed. Participants receive hands on instructions and are encouraged to install the seat themselves after demonstration. Inspectors encourage parents to come back to have the safety seat installations in other family vehicles inspected as well. Inspectors discuss with families future safety restraint needs for the child and discuss restraint use for other children in the family. Inspectors involve children as age appropriate mainly by reinforcing safety restraint use and by asking older kids to adjust buckles and straps as necessary. Inspectors distribute parent education materials, complete seat registration cards, and distribute promotional material as appropriate.

Replacement Seat Policy: This station's policy is to replace seats free of charge on a selective basis. However, voluntary donations are accepted. Only seats that are older than 6 years, were purchased at a secondhand store or garage sale, are the wrong size/type for the child, have been in a crash, or have gross safety recall issues are replaced, if the child is present.

The average number of replacement seats provided per month at fixed and mobile inspection stations:

Infant seats	2
Convertible seats/Combination seats	8
Belt-Positioning Booster seats	4
TOTAL	14

Over 1,300 safety seats have been distributed since the beginning of this program (this includes seats distributed to families in need who didn't have a seat). The average number of replacement seats provided per month can range from a low of 10 to a high of 15. Approximately 10 percent of safety seat inspections result in a replacement seat being issued. Typically, 60 percent of seats replaced are forward-facing, harnessed seats (convertibles or combination seats), 30 percent are belt-positioning booster seats and 10 percent are infant-only seats.

HEPD also partners with the local health department to distribute new seats to families participating in WIC or other low-income programs that do not have one. Through this service they distribute an additional 5 to 6 seats per month.

Funding for the replacement seats comes from an Illinois Department of Transportation grant, corporate sponsors such as SAFECO and Babies 'R' Us, civic groups like the Rotary Club, and church organizations. Additionally HEPD received seats through national groups such as Ford's Boost America program and General Motors. Replacement seats are acquired directly from manufacturers through the city purchasing process. Seats are stored on-site in the prisoner access garage and a trailer in the parking lot. An additional garage off-site is also used to store replacement seats.

HEPD does accept used seats for destruction purposes. All seats replaced during an inspection are also destroyed.

This site advertises the availability of replacement seats in event flyers and articles with a statement that they are for those in need who cannot afford to purchase a seat. The site has not had a problem with abuse of the program, mainly because they are willing and do turn people down.

Liability Insurance: HEPD's program is covered under the city's general liability policy.

STAFFING

HEPD has a total of 142 employees. Ninety-seven are sworn officers; the other 45 are civilians. Thirty-two of the employees have job descriptions that include child passenger safety education and inspection duties for the fixed site. Twenty employees and volunteers from the community perform various functions at the mobile site.

Administrator	Title: Assistant Chief of Police
(fixed site and mobile site) Paid Position? ⊠ Yes □ No Employee ⊠ (In-kind Compensation)	Training Required : Sworn Police Officer, Public Relations skills, management and budgeting skills, Current AAA/NHTSA CPS Technician Instructor certification.
# at this site: 1	Time: CPS Program requires 5% of time.
ir at this site.	Duties : Oversees entire CPS program including inspections, training, ensuring officer and other staff availability, budgeting, fundraising, publicity, community outreach, education, scheduling events, and data tracking. Performs hands-on inspections when needed.
Senior Checker	Title: CPS Technician Instructor
(mobile site only) Paid Position? ⊠ Yes ⊠ No (In-kind Compensation)	Training Required : Current AAA/NHTSA CPS Technician Instructor certification. Requiring CPS Training complies with Union rules for selective overtime.
# at this site: 3	Time : 100% of 4 hours one Saturday a month (March - October)
Employee 🗵 Volunteer 🗵	Duties : Oversee inspections and ensure quality and accuracy.
(HEPD pays overtim efor up to 6 officers to work at the mobile site, the rest are volunteers or persons paid by their employer to assist with the inspections.)	

Inspector (fixed site) Paid Position? ⊠ Yes ⊠ No (In-kind Compensation)	Title : Community Relations Officer, Problem Oriented Police (POP) Officer, Traffic Sergeant, Traffic Officer, Traffic Service Officer (civilian), Patrol Officer Training Basesing & Occupy officer if anylicable Occupy
# at this site: 30 (rotating shifts)	Training Required : Sworn officer if applicable. Current AAA/NHTSA CPS Technician or Technician Instructor certification.
8 - 9 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 4 - 5 from 4 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Employee	Time : 15% of a 40-hour week - Community Relations Officer, POP Officer.
(0.11 1/500 %	7% of a 40 hour week - Traffic Officers
(Paid as HEPD officers and divilian employee, no additional	5% of a 40 hour week - Traffic Sergeant, Traffic Services Officer
payment for inspection station services.)	Duties : Schedule appointments and perform child safety seat inspections. Interact with family, determine whether seat is installed correctly and whether seat is appropriate for child, remedy safety seat installation as needed, educate families/caregivers as to correct safety seat installation, and ensure all paperwork is complete.
Inspector	Title: CPS Technician or Technician Instructor
(mobile site) Paid Position? ⊠ Yes ⊠ No	Training Required: Current AAA/NHTSA CPS Technician or
(In-kind Compensation)	Technician Instructor certification. Requiring CPS Training complies with Union rules for selective overtime.
# at this site: 10	Time: 100% of 4 hours one Saturday a month (March - October)
Employee ⊠ Volunteer ⊠	Duties : Perform child safety seat inspections. Interact with family at inspection, determine whether seat is installed correctly and whether seat is appropriate for child, remedy safety seat
(HEPD pays overtim efor up to 6	installation as needed and secure agreement with changes from
officers to work at the mobile site, the rest are volunteers or	senior checker, educate families/caregivers as to correct safety seat installation.
persons paid by their employer to	
assi st with the inspections.)	
Recorder/Scribe/Assistant	Title: Volunteer
(mobile site only) Paid Position? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Training Required: none
# at this site: 10 Volunteer	Time : 100% of 4 hours one Saturday a month (March - October)
	Duties : Records observations and comments during inspections and assists inspector as needed.
Traffic Control/Greeters	Title: Volunteer
(mobile site only) Paid Position? ☐ Yes ☒ No	Training Required: none
# at this site: 2 Volunteer	Time : 100% of 4 hours one Saturday a month (March - October)
. 5.3.11.001 <u>- N</u>	Duties : Control traffic flow and greet families.

Paid Staff: HEPD officers and 1 civilian are salaried employees. HEPD issued a Child Passenger Safety General Order requiring all sworn officers to attend the Operation Kids CPS training. Community Relations Officers, Traffic Division Officers, and the Traffic Division's civilian employee are required to be certified CPS Technicians and CPS activities are part of their regular duties. Additionally, the CPS General Order stipulates guidelines and procedures for traffic stops, transporting children in squad cars, child safety seat inspections, the child safety seat give-away program, and traffic crashes involving a child safety seat.

Use of Volunteers: Volunteers are used for the mobile site. The Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association provides most of the volunteers. The President of the Alumni Association recruits and schedules the volunteers. Surrounding communities' police and fire departments also provide assistance and usually pay their employees to assist.

The Alumni Association is a group of citizens who complete the HEPD's Citizen Academy and want to give back to the community by assisting the HEPD and its activities. There are approximately 50 members; 10 are involved in CPS activities. Volunteers are recruited through Association meetings, the Association newsletter, and emails.

Staff Turnover: This site does not have problems with turnover of staff. Since inception of the program only 3 patrol officers have not renewed their CPS Technician certification. The volunteer base fluctuates, but a fairly large pool is always available.

Staff Training and Continuing Education: All 97 of the HEPD officers have had at least four hours of child passenger training. Twenty-nine officers and one civilian employee are certified CPS Technicians. Additionally, the Assistant Chief of Police is a certified CPS Technician Instructor and the child passenger safety program coordinator. All officers and the civilian employee who are CPS Technicians or Technician Instructors are required to attend an 8-hour refresher course once a year. These trainings are attended during normal work hours and attendees receive their regular salary.

To ensure accurate information is being disseminated, inspections are regularly monitored by the program administrator, Assistant Chief of Police.

Updates and other emerging issues are disseminated via training memos and a quarterly newsletter to all personnel. An updated recall list is distributed every time there is a new recall.

PROMOTIONAL AND OUTREACH ACTIVITY

Various promotional activities are conducted to encourage the public to use the inspection station services including:

Give-away items (e.g. buttons, coloring books) – Early inspection station services were provided at the mobile site only. The site promoted its services by offering a free Beanie Baby to each child whose safety seat was inspected. This was a one-time promotion and was very successful.

Another promotion conducted early on was a check up event at a local "quick" oil change service provider. Every car that came in for a safety seat inspection received a free 10-point vehicle inspection. A radio station broadcasted live from the event. This promotion was also very successful.

These two activities raised CPS awareness in the community and started the Word of Mouth activity that sustains the program now.

Brochures/Flyers – The program distributes its "Did You know..." hand out at the police and fire department open houses, the city's 4th of July Festival, and local children's stores. The hand out is produced in bulk as a tear-off pad and is placed next to the child safety seat displays in the local children's stores. Staff believes that 20% of their business is related to the distribution of these handouts promoting the inspection station services.

During the early stages of the inspection station, flyers were distributed to all the local child care centers. Staff believes there was a minimal impact and discontinued this distribution method.

Newspaper ads/PSAs/articles – HEPD's services are featured in local newspaper articles occasionally throughout the year. The Village of Hoffman Estates employee newsletter mentions the inspection station two to three times a year. The inspection station is also a regular feature in the Hoffman Estates Citizen newsletter, which is published six times a year. Additionally, the city utility bills mention the site six to eight times a year. Initially, staff attributes this outreach to 60% of their business. Now that the site is established, staff believes that 10% of their business is related to these articles and ads.

Radio and Television ads/PSAs – This site does not use radio and broadcast stations to promote the services. Although it may get occasional mention in news stories, HEPD does advertise the inspection station on the city's cable channel, especially the week before the mobile site is scheduled. Staff believes this accounts for 5% of their business.

Word of Mouth – The program staff believes that 60% of their business comes via word of mouth.

Other – The program staff believes that the city's web site, which features a "Top Ten Common CSS Mistakes", and mentions the inspection station services and a list of contact numbers, is responsible for 5% of their business. The staff believes that 75% of the business at their mobile site is from people just "driving by" and word of mouth.

HEPD owns a large trailer with CPS messages; the Red, White, and Blue Team logo; and sponsoring agencies' logos painted on it. The trailer stores all the supplies necessary for the mobile inspection site.

"Specialized" activities - The HEPD program participated in Ford's Boost America program, with a focus on booster seat inspections and distributions.

Targeted Promotional and Outreach Activity: To further promote child passenger safety and raise awareness of the inspection station services, the Traffic Officers conduct 30 - 45 minute presentations at the local hospital's prenatal, infant CPR, and parenting classes twice a month. The county health department also refers families from their WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) and WINGS (Women In Need Growing Stronger) programs to HEPD for safety seat inspection services and the safety seat give-away program.

HEPD's Police Chaplain promotes the inspection station services through the NW Corridor Police Chaplain Association. This is a regional association with Chaplains taking the message to their local church sponsors. One church in particular raised money to purchase child safety seats for the program.

HEPD operates its Hispanic Resource Center out of an office in a predominantly Hispanic apartment complex. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. HEPD officers are assigned to staff it 20 hours per week. Other city and county programs provide staffing the rest of the week. Several of the officers and other staff speak Spanish, and brochures are available in Spanish. The HRC promotes child passenger safety in general and provides inspection services by appointment in addition to other community services and resources.

Key Promotional Partnerships: The HEPD inspection station staff believes that relationships with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the HE Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, the HE Fire Department, Schaumburg Police Department (neighboring community), St. Alexis Hospital, Babies 'R' Us, SAFECO, and the HE Rotary Club have been critical to the success of their program. Additionally, seats made available through IDOT, SAFECO, Babies 'R' Us, the Rotary Club, the Police Chaplaincy, and through the Ford and General Motors programs were critical to the program's success.

FUNDING AND BUDGET

The estimated annual budget for program support and replacement seats is \$5,550, not including personnel costs provided in-kind by the HEPD. Additionally, program staff estimate that \$27,500 was spent initially to set up the mobile site program, including tents, mobile trailer, and other necessary equipment and supplies.

In-Kind Services and Materials: HEPD provides in-kind support of approximately \$73,000 for the salaries and benefits of staff members listed above for the time they spend in inspection station related activities. This amount includes \$5720 in overtime for 6 officers/technicians to work the monthly mobile inspection clinics. Additionally, HEPD and other city departments provide the following in-kind services: office space, storage, supplies, public relations support, public works signage, administrative oversight and personnel support, and transportation services.

HEPD CPS Inspection Station Budget Overview

Expense	Amount	Subtotal
Program Support: (Tools equipments, printing, banners, promotional	\$2,800	
materials, supplies, etc.)		
Subtotal		\$2,800
Seats	\$2,750	
Subtotal		\$5,550
In-kind Personnel Costs	\$73,000	
Total		\$78,550

Funding: Funds for the HEPD Child Passenger Safety Program come from multiple sources including the Hoffman Estates Police Department, Illinois Department of Transportation, a local Rotary club, Safeco Insurance Company, the Hoffman Estates Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association, Babies 'R' Us and donations from individuals.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE INSPECTION STATION

In 1993, Steve Casstevens, an HEPD Traffic Sergeant who had been interested in child passenger safety, received approval to hold a child safety seat inspection event in the HEPD parking lot. The turnout was low, but the positive response from those that did attend encouraged HEPD to continue. In order to raise public awareness of CPS issues, another event was held that year at The Baby's Room, a local store. This not only gave the event more exposure, but also provided easy access to child safety seats if families needed a new one. This second event resulted in 30 child safety seat inspections and many happy families. From 1994-1998, HEPD committed to doing an event once a year in the HEPD parking lot.

HEPD started conducting Operation Kids courses in 1996 and offered inspection services by appointment on a very limited basis. In July 1998, HEPD held its first AAA/NHTSA Standardized CPS certification course. The first inspection event using certified CPS Technicians was heavily promoted. Every child whose seat was inspected received a free Beanie Baby. The event was overwhelmingly successful and families had to be turned away. HEPD committed to providing the inspection services more often (3 per year in 1998 and 1999). HEPD also moved the mobile site to the Babies 'R' Us location in late 1998 due to the need for more parking lot space.

Many CPS certification courses were held during 1998 and 1999 to get enough officers trained to meet the need. In late 1999, HEPD recognized that the three times per year schedule was not meeting the needs of the community and started offering services at the fixed site by appointment and on a drop in basis, and operating the mobile site one Saturday a month during March through October.

The resources most helpful to HEPD in the development of the inspection station were the IDOT, SAFECO, and the Police Chaplaincy for support and funding for start-up costs, CPS training, and safety seats. The support from the Village Board and the HEPD Police Chief was a key component of this program's success.

The inspection station personnel cited the following challenges and solutions during the initial development and setting up of this inspection station.

Challenge	Solution
Support of Chief of Police, Village Board, and Village Attorney	 Provided data showing liability not an issue Emphasized that Village money would not buy the safety seats Pointed out that Police usually get bad PR (too reactive, enforcer without educating) Pointed out CPS program would result in good PR for the police department and the city; would be seen as caring for the community Pointed out that most operating costs could be covered by grants and donations
Raising community awareness of CPS	Provided incentives (Beanie Babies, Free 10- point inspection) to attend inspection events
Not enough trained staff; difficulty scheduling	Concentrated on training staff, held numerous courses Rearranged schedules of trained officers to accommodate need

Challenge	Solution
Infrequent events (2-3/year) became overwhelming; couldn't meet the need	 Went to monthly Saturday events March through October Sought assistance from neighboring communities Added appointment and drop-in services
Initial Mobile site space (The Baby's Room) was too small; poor traffic patterns	Moved mobile site to Babies 'R' Us
Tracking number of inspections cumbersome, especially at fixed site; difficult to produce totals for annual reports, articles, etc.	 Developed database to enter mobile site hand counts Began assigning case numbers to inspections done at fixed site (HEPD and HRC). Public Safety Education UCR Code is used exclusively for inspections; used to tabulate number of inspections Other data from the check up form is collected and tallied by hand and entered into a database; hard copies are filed.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

The inspection station personnel cited the following challenges and solutions involved in the ongoing operation of this service.

Challenge	Solution
Providing too much written materials to participants, participants overwhelmed by information	Developed "Top Ten" list for participants, does not hand out anything else
Difficulty encouraging officers to work at mobile site on Saturday	 Received IDOT grant money; used to pay overtime for up to 6 officers per Saturday Started Red, White and Blue CPS Team (Fire/Rescue, Medical, and Law Enforcement partnerships throughout the region focusing on CPS and assisting one another with resources and support)
Even with 30 officers holding CPS Technician or Technician Instructor certification, at times HEPD was still not meeting the need;	 Encourage families to make an appointment If no one is available, make immediate referrals to others in the area; IDOT developed handbook that includes a list of all CPS inspection services in the state.
Large Hispanic community in Hoffman Estates; tend to mistrust police in general	 HEPD officers and employees trained in "Command Spanish" and Spanish culture Spanish print materials produced Opened Hispanic Resource Center in predominantly Hispanic apartment complex; provide inspections by appointment; HEPD presence is appreciated by residents

Significant Changes Made to the Inspection Station Since It Began:

Administrative – Changed from strictly monthly drop-in services to fixed site with appointments available.

Location – Moved to larger parking lot for monthly inspections Personnel – Additional, dedicated staff trained for inspections

Significant Changes to the Inspection Station Under Consideration or Imminent:

Personnel – Staffing monthly events may soon be more difficult, due to neighboring communities needing to staff their own sites, less time to help out one another. Would like to expand Community Relations Division and train more technicians and instructors in-house. Also, relying on the fact that the monthly event will become more manageable as families have many more options for service.

Circumstances That Would Cause the Inspection Station to Terminate:

A new Village administrator (Chief or Mayor) who no longer supported the program. A new Village attorney that thought there was a liability risk and wouldn't support the program. Lack of funds for child safety seats may cause a hindrance.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The HEPD Child Safety Seat Inspection Station program is self-evaluated, based on the quantity and quality of inspections, customer satisfaction (mobile site only) and patterns of misuse. Evaluation activities include review of inspection forms, observation of staff during inspections, and at the mobile site a customer satisfaction survey is distributed. At one time, HEPD tracked where families came to the HEPD program from to help determine community need, but this became too time consuming and not very useful.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SITE FOR OTHERS

What are the most FREQUENT reasons people give you for using your service?

The service is convenient, frustration with installing seat, do not understand car seat instructions.

Have you identified reasons why more people in your target DO NOT utilize your service? Unaware service is available, lack of CPS awareness

Hispanic community - tend to have a mistrust of police in general; HRC has resolved a lot of this

If you had the chance to start over again, is there anything you would do differently? If yes, explain:

Encourage more people to be trained in surrounding communities sooner; HEPD was the only place for services for too long causing stressful workloads.

What would you recommend to other organizations starting an inspection station as the most important things to do? Get "buy-in" from top administrators, begin slowly (a few CPS Techs, appointments one day a week); build confidence in the program with small successes; team up with community groups and form a coalition to share staff, costs and resources; seek sponsors, establish funding partners, seek small amounts and build confidence--share successes (even incremental) of the program with administrators, partners, and sponsors; provide recognition to administrators, partners, and sponsors.

What would you recommend to other organizations starting an inspection station as the most important things to avoid? Don't try it alone; build partnerships.

CHILD SAFETY SEAT MISUSE TRENDS

Overall, the top three misuses observed by this inspection station are: safety belt NOT holding seat tightly, locking clip used incorrectly or not used when needed, safety seat harness in the wrong slots.

The most common infant seat misuse observed is: infant facing forward too early.

The most common convertible or forward-facing only seat with harness misuse observed is: harness in the wrong slots.

The most common booster seat misuse observed is: shoulder belt under arm or behind back of child.

The most common safety belt misuse observed is: child too small/young for adult safety belt.

Hoffman Estates Police Department Sample Materials

HOFFMAN ESTATES POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order No. 34

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Effective Date: April 23, 2001

CALEA Ref: N/A

INDEXED: Child Passenger Safety Child Seat Inspections

I PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to establish guidelines and procedures when dealing with issues surrounding child passenger safety.

II POLICY

It is the policy of the Department to help ensure the safety of children traveling in motor vehicles on our roadways. This goal can be accomplished through means of enforcement, education, and by providing the means for citizens to obtain child safety seats.

III DEFINITIONS

Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician: Any person who has successfully completed the 32-hour NHTSA Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Course, has been subsequently issued a Technician number, and whose certification is currently valid.

IV PROCEDURE

- A. Traffic Stop Encounters
 - It is the responsibility of every officer to take appropriate action on a traffic stop when there is a violation of the child passenger safety law. Options for officers may include:
 - a. Issuing a citation when a child is not properly secured.

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- If no child seat is present, the officer may provide the motorist with the information to contact the Traffic Section to obtain a child seat.
- c. For a child seat that is present, but not properly secured, the officer may either correct the seat (if a certified Technician) or refer the motorist to the Traffic Section to schedule an appointment for a child seat inspection.
- Providing the motorist with written brochures/educational material regarding child passenger safety.

B. Transporting Children in Squad Cars

- Situations may arise where an officer may be required to transport a child who is required by law to be transported in a child seat (arrest of a parent, crash scene, etc). In these situations, officers should remember the following:
 - a. Do not transport a child in a child seat which is installed in the back seat of a squad car that is equipped with a cage. The distance between the cage and the child seat may not meet the required distance for head excursion.
 - Do not transport a rear-facing child seat in the front seat if the vehicle is equipped with a passenger side air bag.
 - When the situation requires the transportation of a child, officers should call for a vehicle that is not equipped with a cage.
 - d. If a child seat is present in the violator's vehicle, officers shall use this child seat for transportation unless involved in a crash. Officers will ensure that the seat is properly installed. Whenever possible, ask for assistance from a certified CPS Technician.
 - If no child seat is present, officers will request that a supervisor or other officer obtain an appropriate child seat from the station to use to transport the child properly.
 - In all cases, a Child Seat Inspection Form shall be filed. (See Attachment A)

 Officers shall transport children in child seats that are installed as required by the manufacturer.

C. Child Seat Inspections

- As a service to the public, the department will make officers available to conduct "one-on-one" child seat inspections. Only those officers who have been nationally certified as "Child Passenger Safety Technicians" may inspect/install child seats.
- Each time a child seat is inspected, the inspecting officer
 will file an "Operation Kids Child Seat Inspection Form."
 This includes all scheduled inspections, as well as traffic
 stop situations. The officer will also assign a case number
 to the form. The original form will be forwarded to the
 Traffic Section.
- The officer will ensure that the parent/guardian understands the proper installation, is an active participant in the installation, and can reproduce the install.

Child Seat Giveaway Program

- The department at times has child seats available for those motorists who are unable to obtain one.
- To obtain a child seat, the motorist must contact the Traffic Section to request a seat. A Traffic Officer (who is a certified Technician) shall determine the appropriate seat to give the motorist based on the age, weight, and height of the child, as well as the type of vehicle seat and seat belt restraint system.
- The officer shall explain the proper installation of the child seat to the motorist and assist the motorist with the installation.
- The officer shall file an "Operation Kids Child Seat Inspection Form" and assign a case number.

E. Traffic Crashes Involving Child Seats

 On occasion officers will investigate traffic crashes where a child seat was involved. It is recommended that a child seat not be used after it has been involved in a crash.

- Except for cases of a very minor crash, with little or no vehicle damage, officers should inform the motorist that it is recommended that the child seat be replaced.
- It is important that documentation of child seat performance in a crash is included in the crash report.
 - When a child is in a child seat and involved in a crash, officers will make every effort to not remove the child seat from the vehicle until full documentation of its installation has been made.
 - Whenever possible, a Traffic Officer or other certified CPS Technician should inspect the child seat and document as much information as possible about the seat and its installation.
 - c. If the child was already removed from the child seat prior to their arrival, officers should still document as much information about the child seat as possible, and inquire to Fire personnel or others on the scene who may have removed the child as to how the child was secured.
- Officers will use, if available, the "Danger Do Not Use" sticker for child seats involved in a crash. (See Attachment B)
 - The officer shall place the sticker in a visible place on the child seat, preferably not on the fabric where it may be easily removed.
 - b. The officer will inform the motorist of the recommendation and advise them that Illinois law requires insurance companies to provide coverage that includes the replacement of a child seat that was involved in a crash (215 ILCS 5/143.32). The officer will provide the motorist with a contact name/phone number of the Traffic Section for additional information or to obtain a replacement child seat.
 - Officers will also recommend that the motorist inform their insurance company, as well as the child seat manufacturer.

d. A supply of the "Do Not Use" warning stickers will be maintained by the Traffic Section Commander. By Order Of: Clinton J. Herdegen Chief of Police DISTRIBUTION: All Personnel DANGER This car seat was involved in a crash! It is recommended that you REPLACE this seat. Be sure to mention this seat when contacting your insurance company. For additional information, call your car seat manufacturer. For local details, call your Police/Fire Department and ask for a child seat technicien. Red, White, & Blue Child Passenger Safety Team This decal was provided by a member of your local fled, White, 8 Blue Team, Child seat safety information can be obtained from NHTSA at 1-800-DASH2DOT or online at www.nhtsa.dot.gov 10891914 1080 D'Digna (847) 682-1155 34-5

Child Safety Seat Inspection Form





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6. SEAT CAME IN REAR-F		○8. CAME IN USING BOOSTER SEAT
Note: A child should be rear facing until a		Note: A child should be at least 40 lbs. before graduating
at least 20 lbs. If a child is less than one seat with greater weight limits in the rear-	-facing position should be	into a booster seat. ○ Belt Positioning Booster:
used. Keep child rear facing as long as p		○ No Back (Booster Base) ○ High Back (No Harness)
Type of Vehicle System Used: O Lap Only		O Shield Booster (Not to be used for children over 40 lbs., best
Type of Retractor: O ALR Seat in Front of Air Bag	○ Switchable ○ ELR ○ Yes ○ No	practice any child under 40 lbs. should be in FF child seat) Type of Vehicle System Used: Lap Only Lap/Shoulder
Child Within Mfg.'s Recommended	O tes O NO	Type of Retractor: ALR Switchable ELR
Weight/Height Range	○ Yes ○ No	Child Within Mfg.'s Recommended
Seat Facing Appropriate Direction	○ Yes ○ No	Weight/Height Range
Seat Correctly Reclined (30-45 degrees)	○ Yes ○ No	Safety Belt Routed Correctly Around Child Yes No
Harness Straps at or Below Shoulders	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	Lap/Shoulder Belt Fits Child Properly
Harness Straps Snug (one finger test)	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	[Belt Positioning Booster Only] Yes O No N/A
Harness Retainer Clip Present		After Market Belt Positioning Products Used Yes No
(if required in instructions)	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	Safety Belt in Locked Mode [Shield Only]
Harness Retainer Clip Threaded Correctly		
Harness Retainer Clip at Armpit Level	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	Shield Snug Against Child Yes No N/A
After Market Products Used	O Yes O No	Safety Belt Holding Seat Tightly in Vehicle (one inch test) [Shield Only] Yes No N/A
Carry Handle in Proper Position	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	Locking Clip Installed Correctly
Safety Belt Routed Correctly	○ Yes ○ No	(if used)[Shield Only]
Safety Belt/LATCH Holding Seat Tightly in Vehicle (one inch test)	○ Yes ○ No	Proceed to Section 9
LATCH Used Correctly	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	INSPECTOR MUST FILL OUT THIS SECTION
Safety Belt in Locked Mode	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	
How? O Switched/ALR Retractor O Lock	king Clip O Latch Plate	9. SAFETY SEAT INFORMATION (As the seat came in)
Locking Clip Installed Correctly (if used)	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	Type of seat: ○ Infant ○ Convertible ○ Forward Facing Only ○ Booster ○ Other
Tether Used (Not Recommended for most RF Seats)	○ Yes ○ No	Make of seat:
Rear Facing Tether Used Correctly	○ Yes ○ No	Name of Seat
Proceed to Section 9		
		Model Number
7. SEAT CAME IN FORWA		Date of Manufacture
Note: A child should be over one year o	•	Meets FMVSS 213: ONO Yes ODo Not Know
Type of Vehicle System Used: Lap Only Only Only Only Only Only Only Only	○ Switchable ○ ELR	Seat Involved in Crash: O No O Yes O Do Not Know
Type of Seat: O 5 PT - Harness O T - Shield		Recalled: O Yes O No O Unknown
Child Within Mfg.'s Recommended		Original Owner of Child Safety Seat: O No O Yes
Weight/Height Range	○ Yes ○ No	Seat Installed: O With Child Present O Without Child Present
Seat Facing Appropriate Direction	O Yes O No	Passenger Air Bag Present: O No O Yes
Seat Upright	○ Yes ○ No	Disabled or On/Off Switch in Off Position: ○ No ○ Yes
Harness Straps at or Above Shoulders (Reinforced Position)	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	10. RECOMMENDATIONS
Harness Straps Snug (one finger test)	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	Mark with an X the position where seat or child
Harness Retainer Clip Present	BLAVA.	came into inspection • Mark with an L the position where seat or child left
(if required in instructions)	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	• Mark with an L the position where seat or child left inspection
Harness Retainer Clip Threaded Correctly	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	Seat came in installed and used correctly
Harness Retainer Clip at Armpit Level	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	O Seat came in uninstalled
After Market Products Used	○ Yes ○ No	Child came in with no seat
Safety Belt Routed Correctly	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	XXX Loaner/new seat provided Yes No
Safety Belt/LATCH Holding Seat Tightly in Vehicle (one inch test)	○ Yes ○ No	Convertible Booster Tether anchor installed Yes No
LATCH Used Correctly	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	D = Driver Tether strap present ○ Yes ○ No
Safety Belt in Locked Mode How? Switched/ALR Retractor Loc	Yes ○ NoSking Clip ○ Latch Plate	Recommended purchase new seat O Yes O No Note:
Locking Clip Installed Correctly (if used)	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	
Upper Tether Present on Child Seat	○ Yes ○ No	
Tether Used	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	I understand and accept the recommendations made by the child safety seat inspector.
Tether Used Correctly	○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A	I was the last person to install the child safety seat in my vehicle and I was the last person to place my child in the restraint system.
Proceed to Section 9		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		Driver's Signature

aditional Comments:			 	
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INSPECTOR RESOURCE INFORMATION

Child Safety Seat Manufacturer Hotlines:

 Britax
 888-427-4829
 Evenflo/Gerry
 800-543-8954

 Graco/Century
 800-837-4044
 Fisher-Price
 800-432-5437

 Cosco
 800-544-1108
 Kolcraft/Playskool
 800-453-7673

State Highway Safety Offices:

Alabama: 334-242-8672 Kentucky: 502-695-6356 Alaska: 907-465-4371 Louisiana: 225-925-6991 Arizona: 602-255-3216 Maine: 207-624-8756 Arkansas: 501-569-2648 Maryland: 410-787-4017 California: 916-262-0990 Massachusetts: 617-973-8904 Colorado: 303-757-9799 Michigan: 517-333-5291 Connecticut: 860-594-2363 Minnesota: 651-296-9507 Delaware: 302-739-3295 Mississippi: 601-359-7842 D.C.: 202-939-8018 Missouri: 573-751-4161 Florida: 850-488-5455 Montana: 406-444-7301 Georgia: 404-656-6996 Nebraska: 402-471-2515 Nevada: 775-687-5720 Hawaii: 808-587-2150 Idaho: 208-334-8100 New Hampshire: 603-271-2131 Illinois: 217-782-4972 New Jersev: 609-633-9300 Indiana: 317-232-4220 New Mexico: 505-827-0427 lowa: 515-281-3907 New York: 518-474-5111 Kansas: 785-296-3756 North Carolina: 919-733-3083

North Dakota: 701-328-4865 Ohio: 614-466-3250 Oklahoma: 405-521-6023 Oregon: 503-986-4192 Pennsylvania: 717-787-7350 Rhode Island: 401-222-3024 South Carolina: 803-896-8391 South Dakota: 605-773-3178 Tennessee: 615-741-2589 Texas: 512-416-3167 Utah: 801-293-2481 Vermont: 802-244-1317 Virginia: 804-367-8140 Washington: 360-753-6197 West Virginia: 304-558-6080 Wisconsin: 608-266-0402 Wyoming: 307-777-4450

Please submit original inspection forms monthly to:

Systems Imaging 800 Vinial Street, Suite 310 Pittsburgh, PA 15212



Child Passenger Safety Team













Your Opinion Counts! Please help us evaluate our program.

Inspection Location:	_	Dat	e:_		_		
How valuable was the car seat inspection to your family?	1	2	3	4	5	(1 = not	5 =very)
How knowledgeable was the inspection team?	1	2	3	4	5	(1 = not	5 = very)
How long was the wait to have your car seat(s) inspected?_							
Did you have an appointment prior to your arrival? Yes or	N	0					
Do you feel your car seat is more securely installed than be	fore	yo	u at	ten	de	d this insp	pection event
Yes or No							
Do you feel your child is safer than before you attended th	is in	spe	ctio	n e	ven	t? Y	es or No
Do you feel more confident in your own abilities to correct!	y ins	tall	you	ur c	ar.	seat?	es or No
How did you hear about this inspection event?driving	ьу	_	iew:	spap	ner	wor	d of mouth
flyer (instore/other)tv (cable/regular)radio	oth	er (plea	ıse	exp	olain belo	w)
Comments:							
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Messages on residential water bills, citizen newsletters, police website, etc.

'The Hoffman Estates Police Department will be conducting child sest checkpoints at the Baby's-R-Us store on Roselle Rd, at Golf Rd, on the following dates in 2001: April 21, May 19, June 23, July 21, August 18, Sept 15 and Oct 13. For details contact Sgt. Pericano at 781-2846.



The Hoffman Estaten Child Passenger Sufet; Trader will be un display dale 7 and July 8 from 2 to 7 g.m. on the Villege Holl growns.

Free Child Seat Safety Check

Saturdays
July 21, Aug. 18
and Sept. 15
Noon to 3 p.m.
Babies R Us
Rt. 58 & Roselle Roads

Have your car's child seat inspected for damage, receils and correct installation by nationally cortified police officers. Cell Sgt. Joe Perritano at 781-2845





Over 95% of car seats are installed wrong. Hoffman Estates Police provide free safety car seat inspections throughout the year. You can also call us at 847-882-1818 or e-mail us to schedule an appointment.

(left- A/C. Casstevens and a employee of Waste Management dispose of the used and unsafe child seats). Hoffman Estates Police win first place in Traffic Safety!



Citizen Police Academy Newsletter

"Without their assistance...we would not be as successful as we have been. Cudus to all who have helped us!, "notes A/C Caustroens.

Department News You Can Use...

HECPAAA volunteers have been instrumental in assisting with the seven car seat check-up events held between April—October, 2001. In all, 508 child seats were checked at Babies 'R. Us. "I cannot thank the members of HECPAAA enough for their help with each and every check-up event. Without their assistance, we would not be able to be as successful as we have been. Cudos to all who have helped us!", noted A/C Steve CasateHEPD has also hired two new officers, Christina La-Prancis and Hugh Lynch (formerly of Elgin and Crystal Lake P.D., respectively). Ofc. Jorge Herodia has recently left HEPD to pursue a career with the Chicago P.D.

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